

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 16, 2003

Chairman Tim Lambert called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Approval for Minutes from February 2003 and March 2003 Meetings

- February 2003 Meeting minutes approved with no changes.
- March 2003 Meeting minutes approved with changes.
 - 1) Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report / Mute Swan Plan on page 2 and under number 4 changed the words “non-game species” to “game species.”
 - 2) Urban Wildlife Subcommittee Proposal on page 4 under number 3, deleted the words non-lethal, under number 7 (f) changed the wording to reflect that the subcommittee would meet on its own, and it is up to the Commission to decide when the subcommittee will report its findings to Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC), under number 10 changed the wording to reflect that Commissioner Dollar and Commissioner Gregory will support this subcommittee if it includes not only non-lethal methods but also lethal methods for urban wildlife management, Motion under number 2 changed the wording to reflect Commissioner Adams motion to approve the concept here today, but a vote on final approval and implementation of the committee will not occur until the Commission receives, and discusses further details on the make-up of the subcommittee and its proposed operations.
 - 3) Motion on page 6 under 1 (a) added clarification that reflects the following wording Commissioner Gregory and Commissioner Dollar agreed as long as the new letter remains the same tone.

WHS Habitat Conservation Program Report

- Presentation by Jonathan McKnight, Associate Director
- The Habitat Conservation Program is responsible for four major divisions (to conserve wildlife habitat particularly on private lands) [Attachment A]:
 - 1) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - (a) Crossed over the 60,000-acre line of wildlife habitat, creation or restoration in Maryland, which includes wetland restoration and stream buffers.
 - (b) Funded by 80 percent of the Federal Farm Bill.
 - (c) The main financial engine for accomplishing the Chesapeake Bay buffer goals and wetlands restoration goals.
 - (d) The Habitat Conservation Program staff is working on an extension of the CREP. The Habitat Conservation Program staff is working with the CREP Advisory Committee regarding changes in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Mr. McKnight outlined the changes on page 2 of [Attachment A].
 - (e) CREP is extremely complex; it is an incentive base and voluntary program for farm landowners.
 - (f) Four separate agencies that are involved in CREP.
 - (g) If the basic premise for a new program is approved by the Federal government and the State government and is brought forth as a second innovation of CREP, all the available initiatives in the first program would be made available to landowners.
 - 2) Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)
 - (a) The Federal Government supports this new program. LIP is designed to protect habitat for species of special conservation concern on private lands.
 - (b) The Department applied for this grant and received an \$ 80,000 planning grant. The Department will use specialists to take a look at Maryland's landscapes, in order to help us identify where incentive base programs for private conservation would have the biggest collection conservation bulk.
 - (c) The funding for LIP is very flexible. It is used for a buffer incentive program and for changes in landscape management. Staff will strive to keep the science pure and not guess as to where we need to spend this money.
 - 3) Invasive Species Coordination
 - (a) The Habitat Conservation Program is charged with coordinating for the Department and other partners on a statewide level with invasive and exotic species response.
 - (b) Many of these conflicts have had devastating impacts on Maryland's natural landscapes.
 - (c) The Habitat Conservation Program staff will work within the Department to coordinate management for these species in order for staff to optimize efficient responses to these issues.
 - (d) The Habitat Conservation Program staff is working actively on six species that had been identified under the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement as particular species of concerned. They are phragmites, mute swans, nutria, zebra mussels, purple loosestrife, and water chestnut. In addition, the Habitat Conservation Program staff is

working on the entire invasive species that damage Maryland's ecosystems and to some degree Maryland's agricultural landscapes and gardening landscapes.

- (e) The Habitat Conservation Program staff is working with the Maryland Invasive Species Council. The Maryland Invasive Species Council received \$ 5,000 in grant money for a new website that will reflect broader range of concerns, responses, and educational outreach on invasive and exotic species.
 - (f) The Habitat Conservation Program is not taking a native only stand. The Habitat Conservation Program is focusing on those species that cause a great damage. DNR is focusing on natural landscapes, while the Maryland Invasive Species Council primary focus is on invasive species that damage agricultural crops.
 - (g) Ms. Linda Wiley expanded web the page on the DNR website on invasive and exotic species.
- 4) Swanson Creek Oil Spill Restoration
- (a) There was a major oil spill three years ago on the Patuxent River at Swanson Creek.
 - (b) The staff gained experience in oil spills response and various federal processes in restoration for oil spills, and damage assessment.
 - (c) The staff is involved in the restoration phase.
 - (d) The responsible parties have paid into Department of Interior account. Mr. Jonathan McKnight is the representative for DNR (the State Trustee). Mr. McKnight, as one of four trustees on the Trustee Council, uses the money paid into the account to accomplish conservation incentive to restore the damage that was executed by the oil spill.
 - (e) The Habitat Conservation Program is charged with accomplishing eight loss use projects and water access projects for the lower Patuxent River to compensate for the use that was loss by the oil spill. The projects are small and designed to expand public use on the Patuxent River, to establish access for those who are physically challenged, and to install backcountry-peddling sites.
 - (f) The program is also charged with oyster restoration on five acres: along with, fairly large wetland restoration and beach restoration projects, to compensate for the loss by the oil spill. Since the beach was terrapin habitat, it is expected with the beach restoration project that it will help restore nesting habitat for terrapins. The Habitat Conservation Program staff is working on the restoration of ruddy ducks due to the loss of 500 ruddy ducks in the oil spill.
- The Habitat Conservation Program has very few staff members. The State still has a hiring freeze; however, the Habitat Conservation Program does have funding for these projects.
 - Questions and Answers
 - 1) Commissioner Freeland asked are game species included in LIP.
 - (a) LIP does not exclude game species.
 - (b) The language is written for species of conservation concern (declining species and rare species). The way it was intended by Congress was that this program would address the issue prior to these declining or rare species being added to the Rare, Threatened and Endangered List (RTE).
 - 2) Commissioner Lamp inquired as to what the procedure is for a landowner who is interested in increasing the populations of the Delmarva Fox Squirrels on his or her property.
 - (a) A landowner would complete an application and make a proposal to the Habitat Conservation Program.
 - (b) Staff will do site visits to encourage habitat. The Department's resolution is to use conservation technology to target needed areas. Staff will apply basic economics on how to best protect a species in a landscape.
 - 3) Commissioner Dollar inquired who would sign the formal and bona fide wildlife plan.
 - (a) The Technical Advisory Committee to the CREP Council, which is made up of various agencies and technical wildlife staff would need to sign off on what is a formal and bona fide wildlife plan. DNR and the CREP Council will review any bona fide wildlife plan and make a decision.
 - (b) The plan will be based on the ecosystem in that particular area and what the landowner wants to do and the spirit of the Department's with the support of federal government, and what the Technical Advisory Committee determines. Rather than try to surface every possible criterion, the Department decided to allow the Technical Advisory Committee with their expertise make the determination. There is a limit to the wildlife habitat area of 2,000 acres per each region.
 - 4) Commissioner Dollar asked is there a website where updated information on the restoration projects has been posted particularly on Swanson Creek.
 - (a) No, not at the moment, but the restoration plan is on the DNR website. In the near future, updates will be posted on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
 - (b) The schedule requires that the Department initiate projects immediately. DNR is called the Lead Implementation Trustee on eight of the projects. The Department is in the process of executing agreements with local government agencies and to break-ground on these projects, ultimately, completing many of the projects this year. The oyster

- restoration project and the other projects will be a two-year timeframe. The Federal Government prescribes the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NeRDA) for any oil spill.
- 5) Commissioner Adams asked if any of these, for instance, CREP and LIP required federal and state matching funds.
 - (a) CREP requires State matching funds of 20 percent and the Habitat Conservation Program is having difficulty obtaining the matching funds in the current budget environment. During the 2003 General Assembly, it was decided to take the 1.3 million dollars in federal funds, which equal a loss of 5.2 million dollars in federal funds, which in turn directly affected the CREP goal under the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.
 - (b) LIP had a 25 percent matching requirement from the State. Once it develops into an easement program for conservation, Maryland's Program Open Space receives funding from general obligation bonds, which could be used as State matching dollars against federal dollars. The Department is looking at opportunities for State matching funds.
 - 6) Commissioner Freeland inquired if the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) is integrated into CREP or has it ceased to exist. The Department still has WHIP and it is used to the fullest degree.
 - 7) Commissioner Freeland asked whether the regional wildlife biologists issue wildlife management plans to landowners.
 - (a) Yes, a landowner could receive a wildlife management plan from a regional wildlife biologist. A wildlife management plan is done as a regular practice and the staff is familiar with the wildlife management plan. The staff that has been writing these plans knows what he or she is doing, and he or she is able to identify what a bona fide wildlife plan is and is not.
 - (b) A landowner who is interested in a wildlife management plan can contact the regional office and ask for the regional manager.

The Black Bear Task Force Report

- Introduction by Robert Beyer, Game Program Associate Director
 - 1) Mr. Beyer mentioned that it was a pleasure working with the Black Bear Task Force. Also, Mr. Beyer commented that Mr. Matthews as Chairman made sure everyone's point of view was discussed.
 - 2) Mr. Beyer presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Valerie Connelly for her service on the BBTF, and on behalf of Ms. Connelly, Mr. Carl DeMatteo accepted the certificate. Each member of the BBTF received a Certificate of Appreciation for his or her service.
 - 3) Commissioner Lamp introduced Dr. Betty Stallman from the Humane Society of United States. Dr. Stallman was an alternative member for the BBTF.
- Presentation by Tom Matthews, Chairman of the Black Bear Task Force (BBTF) and Harry Spiker, WHS Biologist
- Commissioners received a copy of the Black Bear Task Force Report [Attachment B] (refer to the report received at the meeting). Mr. Tom Matthews outlined details of the Black Bear Task Force Report.
 - 1) The signature page does not contain all the signatures from all members. Some of the members were reluctant to provide his or her signature. The purpose of the signature page is not to imply that all the members concur with everything in the final report, but rather to publicly thank the Department for giving the members the opportunity to participate in this process.
 - 2) The Department provided a draft mission statement to guide the members. Members spent several meetings refining the BBTF Mission Statement.
 - (a) The primary mission for the BBTF was to identify important values to consider for bear management and provide recommendations to DNR on all the elements that would be considered in managing the future of black bears in Maryland.
 - (b) Recommendation concepts had to have 60 percent of the members' approval before adding a recommendation to Black Bear Task Force Report.
 - (i) The "Bear Hunting Recommendation" had the most public response.
 - (ii) The Task Force did three different things to collect public input.
 - a. The Task Force held one public meeting in Garrett County at Garrett Community College.
 - b. The Task Force had available on-line forum for public comments on the DNR website.
 - c. The Task Force received public comments through the mail.
 - d. The Task Force received a total of 550 public comments on the bear hunting issue.
 1. The results reflected approximately 4.5 to 1 in opposition to hunting. The opposition came from conservative effort that was done by The Fund for Animals and The Humane Society of the United States. Mr. Matthews credited The Fund for Animals and The Humane Society of the United States for educating their members.
 2. The Task Force discussed in their meeting the public comments and the members' thoughts, and then voted 8 to 4 to include "bear hunting" as a recommendation.

3. The Task Force suggested opportunities for an increase non-hunting recreations. It was also, shared that there is a need for educating people on how to enjoy bear sightings in an outdoor experience without being overly frightened, and to make sure people are safe in the woods.
 - (iii) A letter went to the Department to recommend a public attitude survey, which is a key in determining cultural carrying capacity.
 - a. Commissioner Lamp suggested that the Department conducts in addition a statistically differential test. The data should help refine the Bear Management Plan that the Department ultimately puts into place.
 - b. Once the public survey has been completed, the data will be made available to the Commissioners.
 - (iv) In the event that the Department implements a bear hunting season, the Task Force suggested to no longer providing monetary compensations to landowners for bear damage.
 - a. In Maryland, the only wildlife species for which landowners are compensated for damages is black bear. One of the reasons why this passed was because Maryland does not have a black bear hunting season.
 - b. Commissioner Adams commented that the State should not be in the business for paying private landowners for this public resource for this one species because the Department does not practice in reimbursing damages caused by other species.
 - (v) In the event that the Department does not implement a bear hunting season, then the Department should provide 100 percent compensations to landowners.
 - a. The Task Force recommended that the Department discontinue the selling of the Black Bear Conservation Stamp as revenue generated program.
 - b. The Task Force decided that from a business perspective, the Department cannot justify the selling of the Black Bear Conservation Stamp, and it is not enough income coming in for this to continue. There is a lot of energy required each year in promotion and in administration; therefore, it is not a valuable option for the future on a long-term basis. The Department would have to appeal this through the legislature process.
 - (vi) The Task Force encourages city and county governments to enact local ordinances to mandate or provide incentives for the use of bear-proof trash containers in residential areas, developments, and tourist areas.
 - a. This suggestion is really targeting the Deep Creek area, where there are a lot of tourists and the tourists are not knowledgeable about bears. There are a lot of problems with regards to poor trash management.
 - b. The Task Force is targeting the city and the county governments to develop a creative way to encourage the people to manage their trash, which will increase public tolerance for bears.
 - (vii) The Task Force suggested if the black bear is not going to be hunted or managed in traditional game species manner, then the black bear needs to be reclassified as a non-game species, and funding will no longer come from hunters' dollars and Pittman-Robertson funds sources.
 - a. In this particular project, the 25 percent matching funds is from the hunters' dollars.
 - b. The State spends around \$ 125,000 to \$ 200,000 a year, hunting licenses generates 25 percent.
 - (viii) The members from the Task Force arranged for each committee member the opportunity to provide a personal statement to be enclosed as an appendix.
- Questions and Answers
 - 1) Commissioner Adams asked if the Task Force members know what the Western Maryland public attitudes were towards bear hunting in that region.
 - (a) The Task Force did not digest the comments in a geographic format. On the other hand, at the meeting at Garrett County Community College, which was primarily attended by local residence, there was about two-thirds of the attendees supported bear hunting. This is a very complex issue. Some people supported bear hunting as a managing tool for reducing bears/humans conflicts, but most of the people opposed recreational bear hunting.
 - (b) The Task Force suggested to the Department to use an integrated approach to address wildlife damage problems and wildlife conflicts by first using non-lethal methods, and exhausting all the possibilities in using non-lethal methods before the Department employs lethal techniques. Also, the Task Force suggested that the Department set a Cultural Carrying Capacity (population objective for each county) that the Department and the public decide an acceptable quantity.
 - 2) Commissioner Lamp commented that people from the Humane Society of the United States and from the Fund for Animals tried to help with this program. People will buy items to support conservation of bears in Maryland.
 - (i) Commissioner Lamp strongly disagrees with the decision of disbanding this program. Commissioner Lamp was not convinced that the selling of the Black Bear Stamp should continue. Commissioner Lamp commented that there are other merchandise items that would be more marketable.
 - (ii) Commissioner Adams encouraged the Humane Society of the United States, the Fund for Animals, and others to discuss this issue and check with the Defenders of Wildlife for suggestions. Commissioner Adams was not supportive of monetary compensation by the State. This is not done for deer, geese, beaver or other species that

sometimes cause problems. Commissioner Adams view was that any compensation should come from the private sector.

- (iii) DNR was hit very hard with budget cuts; DNR is operating with a limited staff. There are better organizations to take on this task, and WHS does not have the staff to do this task the way it should be done. Most of our staff works overtime. If it going to make money and be valuable to the program, someone else needs to do the task. The Black Bear Conservation Stamp Contest deadline is June 6th.
 - (iv) Commissioner Adams disagrees with Commissioner Lamp on the discussion of the Black Bear Conservation Project. Commissioner Adams suggested if the discontinuation of this project occurs, then the private sector should be encouraged to pick it up.
 - a. For example, with wolves around Yellowstone National Park, the Defenders of Wildlife had a program to reimburse the landowners for livestock that were killed by wolves from Yellowstone National Park.
 - b. The state did not reimburse landowners. Of course, the Defenders of Wildlife, as a private organization, could raise money for this project. Commissioner Adams was not sure if this program still existed, but it's a model that should be studied.
 - (v) Commissioner Lamp added that the national groups and others made attempts to a make conservative effort with this program and donated 1,000s of dollars.
 - a. The national groups were able to put a promotional campaign for this program.
 - b. Commissioner Lamp also added that this is a Maryland issue, not an issue for the Humane Society of the United States or The Fund for Animals. Again, this needs to be a collaborative effort to continue this program.
 - (b) Commissioner Dollar added that the Commissioners can not ask DNR to do things like this (with the resources, technical expertise that is required on a complicated issue like managing bears), and then ask DNR to sell merchandise. Especially, for the projection of the State's budgets for the next 3 to 5 years, trend is the same throughout the Country; it just not enough money and it is the same for non-profit organizations. Across the board, everyone is evaluating what we do best, what are our priorities for this coming fiscal year, what things we can do better, and what things can we do without. Commissioner Dollar stressed the importance of allowing the biologists, scientists and other staff to educate the public and not sell merchandise.
- 3) Commissioner King mentioned that Mr. Matthews stated that bears are regional resource, with Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Commissioner King asked if the Task Force considered a regional impact on bear hunting in cooperation with the other states since the bears do not belong to the State of Maryland. Since the bears are so transient and there is concern about the impact they are on the region, would it be wise to confer with the other states to gather a comprehensive plan.
- (a) DNR is a part of the Southern Appalachians Black Bear Study Group and Northeast Black Bear Technical Groups.
 - (b) For fifteen years, Maryland has been working closely with the biologists from the surrounding states. The adjacent boundaries states Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia have open hunting for black bears, and the annual harvest for each of those states are an estimate of 20 to 25 percent bears per year. Pennsylvania and West Virginia data displayed an increase in bear population.
- 4) Commissioner Lamp asked if the Task Force or the Department demonstrated how a hunting season to kill a nuisance black bear would help solve any of the complaints in Western Maryland. Commissioner Lamp also asked if the State has a generalized bear hunt, how people are going to target a nuisance bear.
- (a) The Task Force discussed this issue in length and included Appendix N from Ms. Peggy Gosnell to address Commissioner Lamp's questions.
 - (b) At the end of the Task Force progress, the Task Force saw how important it was to collect the data to be able to answer such questions.
 - (c) Ms. Gosnell contacted several surrounding states, and Ms. Gosnell obtained good references and citations for those states that said, "yes," for instance, the bears that had been tagged as nuisance bears in New Jersey were shot in Pennsylvania.
 - (d) The Task Force focus is to get people to live at a tolerable level with this species and to not hunt the bears. The Task Force encouraged the Department to continue employing educational programs and employing non-lethal methods first.
- 5) Commissioner Adams asked if the Department has a handle on the Deep Creek issue.
- (a) The efforts of the WHS staff over the last couple of years have really started to pay off. One thing people will notice is when they drive through there is bear proof trash containers.
 - (b) The amount of nuisance bear calls in 2002 dropped in Garrett County. There was a reduction in calls by 13 to 14 percent, regarding bears in trash containers in Garrett County.

- 6) Mr. Carl DeMatteo asked what the road kills' numbers were for 2002. The total mortality was thirty-seven and the road kills twenty-seven. The road kills included variety of age class and no human fatalities.
- 7) Commissioner King commented the local governments should have incentives. DNR may encourage the local governments to make a requirement if a property owner rents his or her property to make a statement concerning the bears (bear statement) or provide an information packet for individuals.
 - (a) Commissioner King added making it mandatory as part of the program, if someone rents his or her house, the property owner should provide information on bears and have the individual sign an agreement. There is no cost for this process, and if someone does not adhere to the regulations there will be a penalty to pay. The Department has to have incentives since there are fees for local parks. If you have a landowner that does the anti-bear things, maybe DNR could provide a free decal for his or her car, or free limited or lifetime parking pass in a particular city, or free access to a state park. The local government agencies could take the lead on this.
 - (b) WHS has provided rental agency posters. The rental agencies have cooperated with WHS staff by putting up the posters in each rental property to inform the public on what to do and what not to do to avoid bear encounters
- The Task Force has already submitted this report to the Secretary; Chairman Lambert encouraged the Commissioners to review this report and return it with recommendations at the next meeting. Commissioner Lamp mailed the Commissioners copies of the comments that were received along with a cover letter from Commissioner Lamp.
- A Different Viewpoint Report from George Falter, Jr. [Attachment C]

Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Discussion

- Commissioners agreed to table discussion for the June 18th WAC meeting under Old Business.

State Forest and Park Service Update

- No report

Natural Resources Police Update

- Presentation by Sergeant Ingerson
- NRP Activities, March 17, 2003 through April 13, 2003 [Attachment D]
 - 1) Wildlife related activities were low during the reported period with the closing of some of the hunting seasons.
 - 2) Fishing related activities has started and along with other activities.
 - 3) NRP has been assisting with homeland security.
 - 4) As of April 6th, every officer and every corporal officer completed 8-hour training on turkey enforcement. In May, the supervisors will be attending this 8-hour training.
 - 5) The officers and corporal officers had a 3-hour training on responding to animal related incidents and stressing the non-lethal approach on handling some of these issues, particularly in urban environments. Also, in May, the supervisors will be attending this 3-hour training.
- Questions and Answers
 - 1) Commissioner Dollar asked if a suspended hunting license would apply to all hunting privileges. Yes, and it was said to keep in mind that Maryland is part of Interstate Wildlife, which affects their ability to hunt in Maryland and other states that participates in the Interstate Wildlife program.
 - 2) Commissioner Adams asked in reference to incidents illegally killing black bears, have there been reports of people being upset with black bears and targeting individual bears. Sergeant Ingerson will research this and report the findings to WAC at the next meeting.

MSA Update

- No report

Maryland Farm Bureau Report

- Mr. DeMatteo is expecting several nominations for the Farmer of the Year for Wildlife Management. The Maryland Farm Bureau Board will not meet before the next WAC meeting; therefore, this year, the County Farm Bureaus will make the recommendations directly to the WAC.
- Next year, the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) will invite staff from DNR to attend the Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting; hopefully, form some relationships.
- Mr. DeMatteo will forward the names for the Farmer of the Year to Mr. Robert Beyer. Mr. Beyer will combine the nominees for the Farmer of the Year with the other nominees for the other awards and mail it to the Commissioners for their votes, and

then Mr. Beyer will tally the votes for the next WAC meeting. Mr. Beyer needs this completed before MSA summer meeting.

- In one of Maryland's farm counties, roosting birds are causing problems for some neighbors. The birds are roosting on neighbors' property and feeding on livestock and feeding from bins on farms. The Department has a toll-free nuisance wildlife hotline number 1-(877)-463-4697 and nuisance wildlife hotline staff can provide aversive conditioning ideas for the landowner on both sides of the issue. Mr. Kevin Sullivan and Mr. Scott Healy are in charge of the Nuisance Wildlife Hotline Program through the USDA. It was suggested to have Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Healy provide a presentation to the Maryland Farm Bureau.

Old Business

- No old business

New Business

- Crossbow comments have been received by means of the internet, letters, and contacting DNR. The response time is until April 25th. After the public comment period ends, WHS will calculate the totals. Statistical data that many states have is based on the use of a traditional bow vs. crossbow. Particularly in areas where an individual is limited to a traditional bow and then introduce a crossbow, there will be increased in-take.
- Sunday Hunting Bill did pass through the General Assembly, and the Department is waiting to hear if the Governor will or will not sign the bill.
- Mr. Beyer had a sample of Commissioner Adams business cards. Commissioners need to inform Ms. Tracey Spencer of the information that should be listed on the business cards. Also, a commissioner could include the DNR mailing address, DNR telephone, and DNR customer service email address on his or her business cards, and WHS staff will forward when correspondence is received for a commissioner.
- Tracey Spencer will research obtaining name badges for the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Lamp mentioned that there was an incident with bald eagles that DNR received. DNR staff brought the eagles for triage treatment into local wildlife sanctuary. The veterinary was able to assist and contained the bald eagles. Thanks to DNR, the eagles were taken to the Baltimore Zoo for rehabilitation. Mr. Beyer added that the Department is waiting to receive their blood test.
- Mr. Carl DeMatteo mentioned that the Maryland Farm Bureau has received calls on the Landowner's Sportsmen Initiative. MFB has not received any farmers to sign up for this program, and people keep publishing the information. As a result, MFB decided to disaffiliate from the program. Please disseminate this information to the public.
- Chairman Lambert added that about three to four years ago the MSA and the MFB developed this Landowners Sportsmen Initiative. MSA were going to try to work with hunters and provide special training as to ethics and items of that nature. The MFB were going to direct their problems with nuisance wildlife to the hunters. The two organizations were going to work together. MSA had plenty of hunters that supported this program. Unfortunately, MSA and MFB did not receive the same response from the farmers, so the Landowners Sportsmen Initiative is officially defunct.
- Chairman Lambert has tried to contact Commissioner Kathy Jones, with no response.
- Chairman Lambert will check to see how Mr. Garner is doing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Attendance

Members:	T. Lambert, C. Dollar, G. Fratz, W. Freeland, M. King, J. Lamp, L. Adams
Guests:	C. DeMatteo, G. Falter, T. Matthews, B. Stallman
Staff:	B. Beyer, B. King, L. Ingerson, J. McKnight, H. Spiker, T. Spencer, L. Wiley
Absent:	K. Jones, C. Garner, R. Gregory